Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 PRS-01 /050 W

R 081200Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL PRAGUE 0612

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR. CZ. BE

SUBJECT: WALK-IN AT BELGIAN EMBASSY

REF STATE 049635

- 1. AFTER RECEIPT OF REFTEL MARCH 5, DCM MET WITH BELGIAN CHARGE DE BAENST AND EXPLAINED EMBASSY'S INABILITY TO ASSIST POLEHLA AS STATED PARA 2. DE BAENST SAID HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO MAKE OUR POSITION TO POLEHLA RIGHT AWAY.
- 2. COMMENT: WE DECIDED TO INFORM POLEHLA OF USG VIEWS
 VIA DE BAENST, RATHER THAN DIRECTLY, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN
 EMBASSY POLICY OF STRICT NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE. THE
 BELGIAN RESIDENCE, LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SOVIET
 EMBASSY RESIDENCE, IS UNDER CONSTANT POLICE SURVEILLANCE, AND
 WE PREFER TO AVOID SUGGESTED VISIT BY EMBOFF, WHICH MIGHT BE
 MISUNDERSTOOD BY POLICE AND UNNECESSARILY EXACERBATE THE PROBLEM.
 WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT DE BAENST WILL ACCURATELY TRANSMIT USG POSITION
 TO POLEHLA, AND WE PLAN TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION,
 UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
- 3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BELGIANS REMAIN CLOSEMOUTHED AND DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER. CONFIDENTIAL

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I UNDERSTAND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE HAS SENT A SPECIAL APPEAL TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK TO ASK FOR GOC FLEXIBILITY IN REACHING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION THROUGH DISCREET NEGOTIATIONS IN BURSSLES. MEANWHILE, DE BAENST IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO BAR REENTRY TO POLEHLA, SHOULD HE DECIDE TO LEAVE THE RESIDENCE GROUND AGAIN. IF POLEHLA DOES LEAVE, AND THEN FINDS HE IS UNABLE TO REENTER THE BELGIAN EMBASSY, THERE IS ALWAYS THE

POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT TRY TO OBTAIN ASYLUM WITH US DESPITE OUR ADMONITION THAT THIS IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. SHOULD HE TAKE THIS COURSE,

WE WOULD FOLLOW GUIDELINES IN 2 FAM, AS STATED IN PRAGUE 587, AND REITERATE USG POSITION SET FORTH IN PARA 2 REFTEL IN REASSERTING OUR INABILITY TO EXTEND ASYLUM. BYRNE

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